

Please do nothing further to weaken the regulations which protect diversity of media. These laws protect the public interest by promoting access to numerous voices in the media.

The FCC has already gone WAY too far in dismantling anti-monopoly laws in radio, print, and television media. The most obvious symptom of which is the homogenization of radio programming; I'm too young to launch into a "good old days" tirade, but I remember just ten years ago when there were commercial radio stations that had interesting programming. Now they're all owned by 2-3 companies, and they all sound the same. This is more than an aesthetic concern...this demonstrates how media monopolies push more marginal voices off the air. Oldies stations used to have unique programming, highlighting local music of yesteryear, but the newer generation of corporate radio have no room for music that doesn't appeal to focus groups and surveys.

The effects of the last few years' dismantling of anti-monopoly laws in radio is easy to hear in the lack of variety in the music on the air. But more insidious is the lack of voices in news reporting. This isn't as easy to notice, because if something isn't reported, how do we learn about it? This leads to an uneducated population who becomes indifferent to news, because it's always the same story over and over because it's always the same people reporting over and over.

The FCC is supposed to defend the public interest over the interest of big business, not the other way around. The changes that began under the Clinton Administration began the dismantling of the regulations that defend the diversity of the media; please do not continue on this path. It is a violation of the FCC's mission.